Amendments to the Claims:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Canceled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Applicant reserves the right to pursue any canceled claims at a later date.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

transmitting a first data burst;

receiving information by the sending network node implying a blocking time while transmitting ~~a~~ the first data burst;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

transmitting a ~~subsequent~~ second data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node immediately after the first data burst .

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10, further comprising transmitting a remaining blocking time of a connection between the sending and receiving nodes to the sending network node.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, further comprising transmitting to the sending network node both:

the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or the blocking time until the beginning of the available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the blocking time and the remaining connection time for a connection are transmitted to the sending network node.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 11, wherein the sending network node sends a reservation request via the switching device to the receiving network node.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein a desired length of time until a subsequent data burst is sent in the reservation request.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the data burst is transmitted via a plurality of switching devices.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein each switching device determines and transmits the longest remaining blocking time to the next switching device or the receiving network node.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein during an acknowledgement signal the receiving end node sends the remaining time till an available connection to the sending network node via the switching devices and the switching devices reserve the transmission capacity.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the reserved transmission capacity is based on the remaining time information.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the data bursts are transmitted over an optical data network.

21. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

transmitting a first data burst;

transmitting to the sending network node information including the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or a blocking time of the existing connection until the beginning of an available connection, and

the point in time of the termination of the available connection or the duration of the available connection or a length of time until the end of the available connection;

receiving said information by the sending network node implying the blocking time while transmitting a the first data burst;

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

transmitting a ~~subsequent~~ second data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node immediately after the first data burst.

22. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 21, wherein the blocking time is the time duration till the next permissible data burst transmission.

23. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting data bursts between a sending network node and a receiving network node over a switching device of a data network, comprising:

transmitting a first data burst;

transmitting to the sending network node information containing the point in time of the beginning of an available connection or a remaining blocking time of an existing connection, and the duration of the available connection;

receiving said information by the sending network node said information implying the blocking time while transmitting a the first data burst

waiting for expiration of the blocking time; and

then transmitting a ~~subsequent~~ second data burst from the sending network node to the receiving network node immediately after the first data burst.